

## Against the Grain

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Volume 25 | Issue 3

Article 24

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June 2013

# Book Reviews-Monographic Musings

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### Recommended Citation

Vaughn, Debbie (2013) "Book Reviews-Monographic Musings," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 25: Iss. 3, Article 24.  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.6531>

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# Book Reviews — Monographic Musings

Column Editor: **Debbie Vaughn** (College of Charleston) <vaughnd@cofc.edu>



**Column Editor's Note:** *ALA's Annual Conference in Chicago is scheduled to include a number of programs, discussions, and poster presentations related to initiatives funded through grants. Here are just a few that have caught my eye:*

- **Beyond Words: How to Recover From a Disaster in Your Library**, Friday, June 28, 12:30-4:00 p.m. — Highlights the AASL Beyond Words grant program.

- **Cyber Seniors: More Options for Lifelong Learning**, Saturday, June 29, 2:30-4:00 p.m. — Highlights The Boomers: Reflecting, Sharing, and Learning, an IMLS National Leadership Grant partnership of the Athens (GA) Regional Library System and Lyndon House Arts Center.

- **The Power of Collaboration: Transforming the Future through Community Partnerships**, Saturday, June 29, 4:30-6:00 p.m. — Highlights the

partnership between the Madison (WI) Community Foundation and a consortium of 28 Dane County public libraries.

- **Using Grants to Support Library Staff**, Sunday, June 30, 2:30-4:00 p.m. — Highlights UC-Riverside's IMLS Laura Bush 21st Century Library Program, which supports the Inland Empire Librarians Educated to Advance Diversity and Service fellowship.

These sessions further demonstrate the importance and power of grant funding. You might ask: "But how do I go about applying for grant funding?" Thankfully, this month's titles — **The ALA Book of Library Grant Money** and **Grant Money through Collaborative Partnerships** — offer a wealth of information to get you started. Checking out these titles prior to attending these sessions might just intensify your conference experience. Happy reading, happy conferencing, and happy granting, everyone! — **DV**

**Kepler, Ann**, ed. **The ALA Book of Library Grant Money**, 8th ed. Chicago: ALA Editions, 2012. 978-0-8389-1058-0. 448 pages. \$175.00. and

**Maxwell, Nancy Kalikow**. **Grant Money through Collaborative Partnerships**. Chicago: ALA Editions, 2012. 978-0-8389-1159-4. 72 pages. \$45.00.

Reviewed by **Debbie Vaughn** (Adjunct Instructor, College of Charleston) <vaughnd@cofc.edu>

The very first class I took in library school was a library management class. Our final project consisted of writing a fake grant application, complete with SMART goals, objectives, and an assessment plan. At the time, hardly any of us in the class had ever had to write a grant, or even consult a grant directory. Now, years later, I look back upon that exercise as nothing short of genius; our professor, **Dr. Charles Curran**, knew what an important practice (or "opportunity," as he often called assignments) a fake grant application would be. The exercise instilled a certain confidence in those of us taking his library management course. It allowed us realize that grant writing can be difficult but not impossible. It also emphasized that grant funding is an important piece of many libraries' budgets.

Fast forward fifteen (or so) years: it is difficult for me to imagine that anyone working in a library hasn't come across a grant guide in one flavor or another. Moreover, with the increasing trend of cut budgets, the likelihood is extremely high that librarians and library fundraisers have thought about or actually sought grant funding. In such endeavors, **The ALA Book of Library Grant Money**, edited by **Ann Kepler**, provides a useful collection of grantor profiles and grants information. Its primary arrangement is alphabetical by

foundation name or the foundation's parent company name. For each agency it offers contact and descriptive information, grant types (in this context, "grant type" refers to the type of projects that are grant-funded and not the type of agency that provides the funding), typical and past grant recipients, grant values, requirements and restrictions, and application procedures. When appropriate, named grants are also listed and described. When available, grant contacts and grant-specific Websites are listed. Several indices complete the book: grantors by total grant value, grantors by state, named grants, and professional library organization grantors. One humble suggestion for the next edition: a grant type index might be helpful.

So what makes the eighth edition of **The ALA Book of Library Grant Money** so special? Obviously, this title focuses on funds for libraries and those who work in libraries. Whether grant monies are directed towards facilities, technology, professional development/conference attendance, or general support, the benefactors included in this volume award financial assistance to library-related projects and initiatives — so there's no need to wade through larger grant directories that have a wider scope. Also, the press release for **The ALA Book of Library Grant Money** claims that it has

been "completely overhauled since its last edition." Indeed, this volume is compact and straightforward; in fact, its succinctness is one of the things that makes it easy to navigate. Out with the oft-overwhelming **Big Book of Library Grant Money** and in with Kepler's relatively slim new edition.

So what makes **The ALA Book of Library Grant Money** better than an online source? Truthfully, it might not be better than an online source. However, some — particularly those who are not well-versed in the art of grant writing, like this reviewer — might find online sources challenging to navigate. Some might not have access to subscription online foundation directories. Some might just prefer to use a good, old-fashioned book (though this one comes in eBook format as well!). Sometimes, it comes down to preference.

Preference is also critical when it comes time to prepare a grant proposal. While some might prefer to work alone, some — again, like this reviewer — might prefer to work as a part of a team. A cooperative approach to seeking grant funding is explored in **Nancy Kalikow Maxwell's** work, **Grant Money through Collaborative Partnerships**. **Maxwell** is a stranger neither to grant writing (she has had success in grant projects totally more than ten million dollars), to collaborating on grant projects (she owns and operates a grant development company), nor to publishing (her first book, **Sacred Stacks**, was reviewed in the September 2006 edition of **ATG**). Her witty writing style makes the subject of grant writing partnerships utterly *delightful*, a word that most folks might not immediately think of to describe the process of grant planning.

**Maxwell's** book, part of the **ALA Editions Special Reports** series, is comprised of ten chapters. The first and the last are the introduction and conclusion, respectively. In between are over 60 pages packed with information that guide the reader in understanding the basics of grant development, finding and working with grant developers, using librarians' research expertise in the grant process, requesting that library support is included in the grant budget proposal, offering library support and services as part of the grant project, finding and proposing partnerships between the library and other organizations, and considering grant-writing careers. Each chapter concludes with bibliographic notes; a selected bibliography and works cited appears at the end of the book. After her bibliography, **Maxwell** offers a helpful list of additional sources: blogs, grant sources, professional associations, and more. A thorough index wraps up her work. Simply put, reading **Maxwell's** book is inspiring. Are you looking

*continued on page 43*



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### Book Reviews

from page 42

for motivation to expand your library's community partnerships? Do you want to work with an agency outside of your organization to meet the programming and information needs of your population? Are you interested in creating a grant-writing team but you've been too daunted to try? Grab a copy of *Grant Money through Collaborative Partnerships*. It will give you the information and confidence to move forward, and it's a good read to boot.

These two books explore grant funding from very different angles. While **Kepler's** edition identifies numerous grant sources, **Maxwell's** book is more of a manual for understanding the grant development process and navigating the grant partnership journey. Alone, they each provide a solid springboard for researching and starting a grant application. Together, though, they offer a holistic view of the sources, approaches, and steps to take to apply for and receive a grant. The pair would be an advantageous addition to any library manager's desk collection. As well, *The ALA Book of Library Grant Money* should be included in any collection that supports a library school program. 🌱

### From the Reference Desk

from page 41

development of one of America's most politically distinct, not to mention its fastest growing, region. This work will cover not only the significant events and actors of Western politics, but also deal with key institutional, historical, environmental, and sociopolitical themes and concepts that are important to more fully understanding the politics of the West over the last century."

**SAGE** also has a recent release that a number of folks will want to follow up on as well as a second edition that is set for a July launch.

*Encyclopedia of Philosophy and the Social Sciences* (9781412986892, \$350) "is the first of its kind in bringing together philosophy and the social sciences. It is not only about the philosophy of the social sciences but, going beyond that, it is also about the relationship between philosophy and the social sciences... The Entries cover topics

of central significance but also those that are both controversial and on the cutting-edge, underlining the unique mark of this *Encyclopedia*: the interrelationship between philosophy and the social sciences, especially as it is found in fresh ideas and unprecedented hybrid disciplinary areas."

*Encyclopedia of White-Collar and Corporate Crime, Second Edition* (9781452225302, \$315 prepub.) The first edition was published in 2004 and this new version "captures what has been going on in the news and behind the scenes with new articles and updates to past articles." Events like "the largest Ponzi scheme in history (**Madoff**), an ecological disaster caused by **British Petroleum** and its subcontractors (Gulf Oil Spill), and U.S. Defense Department contractors operating like vigilantes in Iraq (Blackwater)" are discussed in this new edition.

Most, if not all, of these titles will be available electronically. Visit the appropriate Websites for further information. 🌱